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27. The method of claim 13, wherein the antigen is chemically bound to the particle.

28. The method of claim 13, wherein the coated particle is accelerated into the target cell *in vivo*.--

REMARKS

Overview of the Amendments:

Applicants, by way of this preliminary amendment, have canceled claims 2-12 without prejudice and disclaimer. It is to be understood that cancellation of these claims is not meant to be an acquiescence in any rejections entered in the parent case, and applicants expressly reserve the right to bring the claims again in a subsequent, related application.

In addition, the title has been changed to more closely recite the invention, and new claims 13-28 have been added to recite the invention with greater particularity. The new claims are drawn to subject matter of the now canceled claims. Support for these new claims can be found in claims 1-12 as originally filed, and throughout the specification at, *inter alia*, page 4, lines 12-31; page 5, line 11 through page 7, line 10; page 13, lines 29-34; and in the examples.

Accordingly, no new matter has been added by the new claims, and the entry thereof is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully submit that the claims comply with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112 and define an invention which is novel and nonobvious over the prior art. Accordingly, a Notice of Allowance is believed in order and is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner notes any matters which he believes may be expedited by a telephone interview, he is requested to contact the undersigned attorney at (510) 742-9700, extension 209.

Respectfully submitted,

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By: Thomas P. McCracken

Thomas P. McCracken
Registration No. 38,548

ROBINS & ASSOCIATES
90 Middlefield Road, Suite 200
Menlo Park, CA 94025
Telephone: (510) 742-9700
Fax: (650) 325-7823